

## REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated July 14, 2008 (the "Office Action"). Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16-20, 22 and 24-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 10, 12, 19, and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the claim amendments is found in the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

### Specification

The specification is objected to as failing to provide antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Applicants have amended the specification to provide antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

### Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16-18, 20, 22, and 24-26 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16-18, 20, 22, and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over "Microsoft Office XP Inside Out" ("Halverson"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,481 ("Michelman"), and further in view of Advanced Excel Find" ("AEF"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The cited portions of Halverson, Michelman, and AEF individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of Halverson, Michelman, and AEF fail to disclose or suggest storing a custom search, where the custom search enables execution of a predetermined search, where the predetermined search includes a search of a user-selected subset of cells, rows and columns of one or more of the spreadsheets, as in claim 1.

The Office Action admits that "neither Halvorson nor Michelman disclose having a graphic control panel that allows the selection of subsets or portions of the spreadsheets for searching." The Office Action relies on AEF for this feature. *See* Office Action, p. 4, ¶ 2.

However, in contrast to claim 1, the cited portions of AEF describe searching through a "selection" of multiple worksheets and workbooks. The cited portions of AEF also disclose:

“Advanced Excel Find is a COM add-in that enhances Excel’s built in Find function allowing searching through multiple worksheets and workbooks.”

The “How to use” section of AEF further discloses:

“Enter text of numbers you want to find. Set workbooks and worksheets to be searched through. Set additional parameters, such as direction of search, and so on. Click the **Find** button or choose the arrow next to the Find button and choose **Find in selection.**”

Thus, the “Search in selection” functionality and the “Find in selection” functionality disclosed by AEF are related to a selection of worksheets or workbooks and not to a user-selected subset of cells, rows and columns of one or more of the spreadsheets. Further, the portion of AEF disclosing “Select all or some of the resulting cells” is referring to a selection of cells of the search result and not to a selection of cells to be searched. This is further clarified in the “How to use” section in which rows and cells are selected and viewed through the “Search results tab.”

Therefore, the cited portions of AEF fail to disclose or suggest this element of claim 1, and therefore Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 24, and 25 depend from claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Therefore, claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 24 and 25 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

The cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 10. For example, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF fail to disclose identifying second portions of data from the plurality of selected spreadsheets via a preprogrammed search wherein the preprogrammed search specifies a user-selected subset of cells, rows, and columns of one or more spreadsheets, as in claim 10.

The Office Action admits that “neither Halvorson nor Michelman disclose having a graphic control panel that allows the selection of subsets or portions of the spreadsheets for searching. The Office Action relies on AEF for this feature. *See* Office Action, p. 4, ¶ 2.

However, in contrast to claim 10, the cited portions of AEF describe searching through a “selection” of multiple worksheets and workbooks. The cited portions of AEF disclose:

“Advanced Excel Find is a COM add-in that enhances Excel’s built in Find function allowing searching through multiple worksheets and workbooks.”

The “How to use” section of AEF further discloses:

“Enter text of numbers you want to find. Set workbooks and worksheets to be searched through. Set additional parameters, such as direction of search, and so on. Click the **Find** button or choose the arrow next to the Find button and choose **Find in selection.**”

Thus, the “Search in selection” functionality and the “Find in selection” functionality of AEF are related to a selection of worksheets or workbooks and not to a user-selected subset of cells, rows and columns of one or more of the spreadsheets. Further, the portion of AEF disclosing “Select all or some of the resulting cells” is referring to a selection of cells of the search result and not to a selection of cells to be searched. This is further clarified in the “How to use” section in which rows and cells are selected and viewed through the “Search results tab.”

Therefore, the cited portions of AEF fail to disclose or suggest this element of claim 1, and therefore Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 10. Hence, claim 10 is allowable.

Claim 22 depends from claim 10, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Therefore, claim 22 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 10.

The cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 12. For example, the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF fail to disclose or suggest a spreadsheet selection area comprises a select all open spreadsheets selection to select execution of the preprogrammed search on all open spreadsheets wherein the preprogrammed search specifies a user-selected subset of cells, rows, and columns of one or more spreadsheets, as in claim 12.

The Office Action admits that “neither Halvorson nor Michelman disclose having a graphic control panel that allows the selection of subsets or portions of the spreadsheets for searching.” The Office Action relies on AEF for this feature. *See* Office Action, p. 4, ¶ 2.

However, in contrast to claim 12, the cited portions of AEF describe searching through a “selection” of multiple worksheets and workbooks. The cited portions of AEF disclose:

“Advanced Excel Find is a COM add-in that enhances Excel’s built in Find function allowing searching through multiple worksheets and workbooks.”

The “How to use” section of AEF further discloses:

“Enter text of numbers you want to find. Set workbooks and worksheets to be searched through. Set additional parameters, such as direction of search, and so on. Click the **Find** button or choose the arrow next to the Find button and choose **Find in selection.**”

Thus, the “Search in selection” functionality and the “Find in selection” functionality of AEF are related to a selection of worksheets or workbooks and not to a user-selected subset of cells, rows and columns of one or more of the spreadsheets. Further, the portion of AEF disclosing “Select all or some of the resulting cells” is referring to a selection of cells of the search result and not to a selection of cells to be searched. This is further clarified in the “How to use” section in which rows and cells are selected and viewed through the “Search results tab.”

Therefore, the cited portions of AEF fail to disclose or suggest this element of claim 12, and therefore Halvorson, Michelman, and AEF, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 12. Hence, claim 12 is allowable.

Claims 13, 16-18, 20, and 26 depend from claim 12, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Therefore, claims 13, 16-18, 20, 22 and 26 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 12.

### **Claim 19 is Allowable**

The Office has rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Halverson in view of Michelman, and further in view of AEF, and further in view of U.S. Pub. No. 20030061193 (“Anson”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 19 depends from claim 12. As explained above, the cited portions of Halverson, Michelman, and AEF fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 12. The cited portions of Anson fail to remedy the deficiencies of Halverson, Michelman, and AEF in this regard. For example, the cited portions of Anson fail to disclose or suggest a spreadsheet



selection area that comprises a select all open spreadsheets selection to select execution of the preprogrammed search on all open spreadsheets wherein the preprogrammed search specifies a user-selected subset of cells, rows, and columns of one or more spreadsheets, as in claim 12. In contrast to claim 12, Anson describes filtering a data set to identify lines of interest. *See Anson, Abstract*. Thus, the cited portions of Halverson, AEF, and Anson, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 12, or of claim 19, which depends from claim 12. Hence, claim 19 is allowable.

Further, the cited portions of Halverson, Michelman, AEF, and Anson individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 19. For example, the cited portions of Halverson, Michelman, AEF, and Anson fail to disclose or an event logger adapted to track generation of the final report spreadsheet and to report the tracking during generation of the final report spreadsheet, wherein the event logger presents consolidation events as the consolidation events are being performed, as in claim 19.

The Office Action admits that “none Halvorson, Michelman, or AEF disclose using an event logger to track(ing) the events that take place during processing. The Office Action relies on Anson for this feature. *See Office Action*, p. 9, ¶ 3.

However, in contrast to claim 19, the cited portions of Anson describe the generation of log files to determine events that occurred prior to a system crash or application termination. The cited portions of Anson disclose:

“The data sets that are generated in these and other situations can often provide valuable information that can be used in various ways. The problem with these types of data sets is that their size (measured in number of entries, size of a single entry, etc.) makes it difficult to find and view the specific data that is of interest to a user. For example, log files can be used to determine the events that occurred just before a problem crashed a system or terminated an application. Finding and examining the entries corresponding to these events in the log files can then be used to prevent this type of problem for re-occurring. However, the sheer size of the log file makes it very difficult to examine the log file and find the entries or text that is associated with the system crash or with the terminated application. When the appropriate entry (or group of entries) is found in the log file, it may provide some idea as to why the system crashed or why the application terminated improperly. With this information, a user may be able to fix the problem so that this problem does not cause similar actions in the future.”

(Anson, ¶6, emphasis added)

The cited portions of Anson disclose the generation of a log file to be used subsequent to crash or termination in order to determine the events that occurred and prevent such occurrences. The cited portions of Anson fail to disclose or suggest presenting consolidation events as the events are being performed, as in claim 19.

Therefore, the cited portions of Anson fail to disclose or suggest this element of claim 19, and the cited portions of Halvorson, Michelman, AEF, and Anson, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 19. Hence, claim 19 is allowable.

## CONCLUSION

Applicants have pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the cited portions of the references applied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.

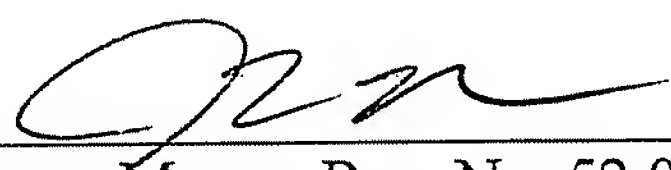
Any changes to the claims in this response, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the cited art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

Oct. 14, 2008  
Date

  
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